

December 6, 2018 7:00 PM

Manchester Conservation Commission meeting minutes.

Present: Garry Hinkley, Jean-Luc Theriault, Jeff Reardon, Jeff Janell, Sarah Kingdon, Shenna Bellows, Annie Reiter, Deb Plengey

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

The Boy Scouts did a good job with rebuilding the bridge on the Forest trail at Jamies Pond, planking replaced and will build a railing in the spring. Supplies very reasonably priced. There was a good turnout from the Scouts and they are looking for similar projects in the future. Still some work to be done on the trail leading up to Maple Hill Farm, will work with owner and Hallowell CC to plan future work.

Recycling update: Pat will look into talking with other towns to consider a joint recycling project, but no report back yet. Contamination rate is down in Manchester. We have talked about meeting with haulers to coordinate with their needs but no plan yet. May try to renegotiate on short term contracts for Eco Maine with BOS and Pat's approval.

Kennebec West has beautiful maps. Towns are enacting ordinances to get around right to farm bill but they are trying to write state laws to preclude this and protect farm rights. Winthrop was considering food sovereignty laws. Manchester has not approved these. Deb is concerned that there could be backlash against farms if someone got sick or other liability issues arose, says most farmers feel this way and feel protected by USDA regs. Still waiting on grant response for further work by KW.

Jeff R gave an update on some planning board ordinances, with focus on updated marijuana ordinances. Discussion of new businesses as well as complaints in town about people growing in residential areas both inside and out. There is an application for a storage unit on property between Puddle dock and Prescott Rds. They are building in and near a wetland area that should trigger a DEP review. There was discussion of impending changes in this area which is mostly farm fields and scrub growth as there is potential for roads to extend back from current TIF areas on Rt 202 and Prescott Rd, possible connections to Puddledock. MCC is aware that to protect open space in this area someone will need to step forward to purchase development rights or the land outright.

Logging has not started in Fairbanks parcel. Ground is freezing but lots of water. Garry will check for updates and on the site. (This turned out to be inaccurate. Logging had started, and has been completed.)

There is a draft brochure for the Halloween Res as they develop trails and resources. We continue to monitor for connections as abutters.

Next meeting pushed out to January 10th @ 7 PM at Manchester Town Office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34PM.